AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A zoom lens system for forming an optical image of a subject on a light-receiving surface of an image sensor that converts the optical image into an electrical signal,

the zoom lens system comprising, from an object side thereof, at least a first lens unit, a second lens unit, and a third lens unit,

the zoom lens system achieving zooming by varying distances between the lens units,

the first lens unit having a negative optical power,

the second lens unit having a positive optical power,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$0.1 < Bf / Y' < 1.0$

where

Bf represents an axial distance from a last lens surface to an image plane (in a case where a last lens element is movable during zooming, a minimum axial distance from the last lens surface to the image plane throughout a zoom range); and

Y' represents half a diagonal length of an image-sensing area.

2. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$0.2 < P23 / Pw < 1.0$

where

P23 represents a composite optical power of the second and third lens units; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

3. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$-0.8 < P1 / Pw < -0.1$

where

P1 represents an optical power of the first lens unit; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

4. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$0.15 < P3 / Pw < 0.85$

where

P3 represents an optical power of the third lens unit; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

5. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$-0.15 < (R1 + R2) / (R1 - R2) < 0.5$

where

R1 represents a radius of curvature of an object-side surface of a lens element disposed at a most image-side end of a last lens unit; and

R2 represents a radius of curvature of an image-side surface of the lens element disposed at the most image-side end of the last lens unit.

6. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the second lens unit includes an aperture stop.

7. (Original) A zoom lens system for forming an optical image of a subject on a light-receiving surface of an image sensor that converts the optical image into an electrical signal,

the zoom lens system comprising, from an object side thereof, at least a first lens unit, a second lens unit, and a third lens unit,

the zoom lens system achieving zooming by varying distances between the lens units,

the first lens unit having a negative optical power,

the second lens unit having a positive optical power,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$0.1 < Bf / fw < 0.8$

where

Bf represents an axial distance from a last lens surface to an image plane (in a case where a last lens element is movable during zooming, a minimum axial distance from the last lens surface to the image plane throughout a zoom range); and

fw represents a focal length of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

8. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 7,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$0.2 < P23 / Pw < 1.0$

where

P23 represents a composite optical power of the second and third lens units; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

9. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 7,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$-0.8 < P1 / Pw < -0.1$

where

P1 represents an optical power of the first lens unit; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

10. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 7,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$0.15 < P3 / Pw < 0.85$

where

P3 represents an optical power of the third lens unit; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

11. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 7,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$-0.15 < (R1 + R2) / (R1 - R2) < 0.5$

where

R1 represents a radius of curvature of an object-side surface of a lens element disposed at a most image-side end of a last lens unit; and

R2 represents a radius of curvature of an image-side surface of the lens element disposed at the most image-side end of the last lens unit.

12. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 7,

wherein the second lens unit includes an aperture stop.

13. (Original) A zoom lens system for forming an optical image of a subject on a light-receiving surface of an image sensor that converts the optical image into an electrical signal,

the zoom lens system comprising three lens units, namely, from an object side thereof, a first lens unit having a negative optical power, a second lens unit having a positive optical power, and a third lens unit having a positive optical power,

the zoom lens system achieving zooming by varying distances between the lens units,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$0.2 < P23 / Pw < 1.0$

where

P23 represents a composite optical power of the second and third lens units; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

14. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 13,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$-0.8 < P1 / Pw < -0.1$

where

P1 represents an optical power of the first lens unit; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

15. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 13,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$0.15 < P3 / Pw < 0.85$

where

P3 represents an optical power of the third lens unit; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

16. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 13,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$-0.15 < (R1 + R2) / (R1 - R2) < 0.5$

where

R1 represents a radius of curvature of an object-side surface of a lens element disposed at a most image-side end of a last lens unit; and

R2 represents a radius of curvature of an image-side surface of the lens element disposed at the most image-side end of the last lens unit.

17. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second lens unit includes an aperture stop.

18. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system ~~as claimed in claim 18~~, for forming an optical image of a subject on a light-receiving surface of an image sensor that converts the optical image into an electrical signal,

the zoom lens system comprising, from an object side thereof, at least a first lens unit, a second lens unit, and a third lens unit,

the zoom lens system achieving zooming by varying distances between the lens units,

the first lens unit having a negative optical power,

the second lens unit having a positive optical power,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following conditions:

$0.01 < Bf / Lw < 0.2$

and

$-0.8 < P1 / Pw < -0.1$

where

Bf represents an axial distance from a last lens surface to an image plane (in a case where a last lens element is movable during zooming, a minimum axial distance from the last lens surface to the image plane throughout a zoom range);

Lw represents a length from a most object-side surface of the zoom lens system to the image plane at a wide-angle end;

P1 represents an optical power of the first lens unit; and

Pw represents an optical power of the zoom lens system as a whole at a wide-angle end.

21. – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) An image-taking apparatus comprising:

a zoom lens system as claimed in one of claims 1, 7, and 13[[, and 18]]; and

the image sensor.